

**Acting Regional Administrator Meeting with
Region 3 State Agriculture Secretaries and Commissioners
U.S. EPA Region III
1650 Arch St, Philadelphia, PA 19103**

September 28, 2017

STATUS REPORT - FOLLOWING UP ON ACTION ITEMS – Updated 9/10/18

Action Item	Lead	Status	Comments
Verification of Ag Conservation Practices for Credit in CBP Partnership Watershed Model			
State Ag Secretaries meet with EPA to share ideas for how to assess nutrient management compliance (how it is defined, how it is measured, what data are collected, what is a statistically significant sample size, etc.)	Kelly Shenk	Completed	<p>Nutrient management state agency staff from NY, PA, MD, VA, DE and WV and Chesapeake Bay Program Ag Workgroup leadership shared approaches for how they are assessing nutrient management compliance for credit in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership's Watershed Model.</p> <p>This was a very constructive information-sharing session and states like DE and PA that are still developing their nutrient management compliance programs asked a lot of questions and found the exchange very useful. Deputy Ag Secretary Kenny Bounds participated by phone.</p>
State Ag Secretaries meet with EPA to share ideas for how to verify ag practices on the ground -- state approaches for efficiently	Kelly Shenk	Completed	WV Deputy Ag Commissioner, Joe Hatton, requested this meeting. In October, Joe met with the CBP Ag Workgroup experts who

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verifying practices while also using field staff to increase practice implementation.			answered all of his questions, so a meeting with EPA was not necessary.
Worker Protection Standards			
DE Ag Secretary Scuse will work with RA to develop a set of issues to send to Nancy Beck for consideration in the ANPRM.	Martha Shimkin	Completed.	
EPA will ensure that the State Ag Departments are contacted (at Secretary level), along with the State Environmental Agencies, when EPA is conducting inspections or taking any compliance or enforcement actions against farmers on the Worker Protection Standards regulations.	Linda Miller	Completed and ongoing.	<p>EPA will ensure we have a “no surprises” protocol in place for the DRA/RA to alert Ag Secretaries and Commissioners on any farm visits and/or enforcement actions associated with Worker Protection Standards, CAFO inspections, AFO inspections, etc.</p> <p>EPA informed PA and MD Ag Secretaries of planned CAFO inspections in early 2018 and invited them to participate. MDA participated in the inspections. PDA declined to participate but asked us to provide feedback post inspections.</p>
EPA will work with states to ensure consistent Worker Protection Standard education and outreach at key ag events. EPA will conduct a joint training with DE at Ag Week and at the Watermelon Association training.	John Armstead	Completed.	<p>EPA worked with DE to develop consistent training and outreach materials for these events.</p> <p>Trainings were held at DE Ag Progress Days (January) and the Mar-Del Watermelon Convention (early February)</p>

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			RA committed to conduct additional trainings at DE State Fair.
Pesticide Reviews			
EPA will finalize human health risk assessments for atrazine and glyphosate by the end of the year. Nancy Beck offered to brief the group on the results of the studies and other new developments as they become available.	Nancy Beck	Ongoing.	RA/DRA will ensure that an update on this work is provided at the next Ag Secretaries/Commissioners meeting.
Funding			
EPA will share state ULOs for CBIG and CBRAP grants with each of the Ag Secretaries and Commissioners.	Jim Edward	Completed.	Jim Edward sent data to RA's office for distribution on 11/21/17.
The Ag Secretaries will meet with their Environmental Secretaries (and Governors where necessary) to discuss how grant money should be distributed amongst the state agencies and present any requested modifications to their funding flows to EPA.	States	Ongoing.	<p>EPA has agreed to consider any requests that are brought forward jointly by the state ag and environment departments proposing modifications to how the Chesapeake Bay grants are distributed to state agencies.</p> <p>RA sent letters to all environmental and ag secretaries in April indicating that EPA is open to directing funds to separate agencies and offering to meet with the agencies to discuss further.</p>

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			MD made changes – split the CB funding 50-50 among environmental and ag agencies. PA and NY are considering changes for FY19. VA, DE, and WV decided no changes were necessary at this time.
EPA will provide state ag secretaries and commissioners detailed SRF data, including the minimum and maximum allowable amounts for principle forgiveness – “free money.”	Maggie Cunningham	Completed.	<p>Acting RA sent the SRF presentation and Maggie Cunningham’s contact information to the Ag Secretaries and Commissioners.</p> <p>Maggie has been in contact with all 5 CWSRF State program managers; all are very willing to meet and discuss additional CWSRF funding opportunities.</p>
State Ag Departments and State Environmental Departments will invite EPA to meet with them to talk about specific opportunities to use SRF funding for ag projects.	States	Ongoing.	<p>PA secretaries of Agriculture, Environment, and Community & Economic Development scheduled a meeting with PENNVEST to discuss SRF and other nonpoint source funding opportunities. PENNVEST said they will be in touch with EPA, following the meeting.</p> <p>PENNVEST agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) review its processes, especially the application, to look for ways to streamline them with farmers in mind; and (2) to hold 3 extensive outreach meetings in the Bay watershed with ag stakeholders to discuss opportunities for increasing CWSRF funding to ag priorities. I offered my

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			assistance to PENNVEST for both of these initiatives. No other states have initiated meetings yet.
Secretary Scuse will work to set up a meeting between USDA leadership at NRCS and FSA, state ag secretaries/commissioners, and EPA to discuss where states are heading with the Bay restoration and how USDA can continue to support their efforts moving forward.	DE Ag Secretary Scuse	No date set yet.	Meeting will be set up once Bill Northey is confirmed and settled at USDA. EPA invited USDA to attend 9/24/18 meeting with Ag Secretaries and Commissioners. Terrell Erickson, Acting Regional Conservationist for Northeast; Barry Frantz Conservation Initiative Coordinator; and Terron Hillsman, MD State Conservationist and CBP Management Board representative will attend.
Communications			
EPA will share with the ag secretaries and commissioners the key messages on the progress we have made in restoring the Chesapeake Bay and local waters (Chesapeake Executive Council's posters, videos, testimonials, etc.).	Jim Edward	Completed	Ag Secretaries and Commissioners have access to all Executive Council posters and Bay Barometer reports.
MDA will invite EPA Regional Administrator and colleagues to attend the Garrett County liquid dairy manure injector demonstration in early November.	MD Ag Secretary	Completed	Event was canceled due to weather and rescheduled for 4/17/18. EPA Region 3 staff are looking into the possibility of attending.

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In response to state secretaries asking for EPA to join them in educating state legislatures, the RA will reach out to other EPA regions to see if/how they are doing congressional education.	DRA Linda Miller	Ongoing.	Cecil will touch base with Robin Richardson.
<p>States will consider other ways to work with EPA on communications and outreach such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ag Roundtables and Farm Tours - Ag Education Program webinars for state and federal ag employees. - Articles and videos promoting farmer successes in improving water quality. - Piggyback onto existing outreach efforts that are effective. - For example: PA Farm Bureau's 5 mobile ag labs, class tours of farms. - Jointly recognizing farmers for stewardship: PA recognition program, DE's Conservation Award. 	States Kelly Shenk	Ongoing. Great progress.	<p>Examples of events conducted:</p> <p>Maryland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Technology Information Center "Conservation in Action Tour." MD Eastern Shore. July 11, 2018. RA and Ag Advisor. • MD Farm Bureau Board Meeting. Davidsonville, MD. June 27, 2018. RA and Ag Advisor. • Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association Annual Board Meeting – Annapolis, MD. June 7, 2018. Kelly Shenk. • Harborview Farms Field Day – Bayer Forward Farm. Rock Hall, MD. May 16, 2018. Kelly Shenk. • Nutrient Application and Management Field Demo Day. Queenstown, MD. May 9, 2018. Sponsored by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, National Agricultural Aeronautics Association, Agricultural Retailers Association, National Corn Growers Association and American Soybean Association. Kelly Shenk

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			<p>State Ag Secretaries/Commissioners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bay Ag Secretaries/Commissioners Meeting. April 20, 2018. Annapolis, MD • Bay Ag Secretaries/Commissioners Meeting. September 28, 2017. Philadelphia, PA. • Bay Ag Secretaries/Commissioners Meeting. April 25, 2017. Annapolis, MD • National Association of State Departments of Agriculture. September 13, 2017. New Orleans, LA. Kelly Shenk <p>Delaware:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaware Farmer Ag Roundtable – Delaware State Fair. July 23, 2018. • Delaware-Maryland Agribusiness Association Annual Board Meeting – Annapolis, MD. June 7, 2018. Kelly Shenk • Delaware Association of Conservation Districts. Dover, DE. January 16, 2017. • Farmer Ag Roundtable – Delaware Ag Week. January 10, 2018. • Worker Protection Standards Training – Delaware Ag Week. January 10, 2018. <p>Pennsylvania:</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer Ag Roundtable. Western PA. June 14, 2018. • Urbanstormwater/MS4 Showcase with Westmoreland County Conservation District. June 14, 2018. • Farmer Ag Roundtable. PA Dairy CAFOs. Mount Joy, PA. March 26, 2018. • Farm Tour – Brubaker Farms. Mount Joy. March 26, 2018. • PA Farm Bureau Meet & Greet with RA. March 12, 2018. • Farmer Ag Roundtable. Elizabethtown, PA. Lancaster County. March 12, 2018. • PA Farm Show. January 9, 2018. • Farm Tour – Country View Family Farms, Franklin County. November 17, 2017. • Farmer Ag Roundtable – with Country View Family Farm. Franklin County. November 17, 2017. • PA Farm Bureau Policy Dinner with Deputy RA. Camp Hill, PA. October 26, 2017. <p>Kelly Shenk will follow up with Deputy Ag Secretaries about opportunities in other states (WV and VA).</p>
EPA will explore ways to work with additional farm groups to get the word out (Farm	Kelly Shenk States	Ongoing.	EPA has asked State Ag Secretaries and Commissioners to think about opportunities.

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Bureaus, smaller state organizations have vibrant ag education programs, mobile ag units, MD Farm to Harvest, PA Farm Bureau mobile units)			<p>EPA's approach is to continue the farm tours and Ag Roundtables and let the word spread about EPA's willingness to do these events. This may motivate states to plan similar events and opportunities.</p> <p>PA Farm Bureau will follow up with EPA on additional opportunities, following Cecil's keynote at the 10/26 Policy Dinner.</p>
Acting RA will send Secretaries and Commissioners information on Region III's College/Underserved Community Partnership Program (CUPP) program.	Acting RA	Completed.	<p>Additional work underway to coordinate with states:</p> <p>Region 3 staff are talking with DE Ag Secretary about partnering on the MOU with DE State University. (LaRonda Koffi)</p> <p>DRA and staff will reach out to MD Deputy Ag Secretary Hans Schmidt on Bowie State and work in Baltimore on urban waters. (Linda Miller, lead)</p> <p>HSCD talk to PA Ag Secretary EPA provide resources for lead testing on vacant lots that may be good fits for urban farming. (Sasha Brown, lead)</p>
USDA/EPA Food Waste Initiative			

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<p>State Ag Secretaries will explore ways they may want to partner with EPA and USDA on this initiative.</p> <p>Lehigh County Food Workshop will be held on November 2nd. EPA will send invitation to Ag Secretaries and Commissioners.</p>	Donna Weiss	Completed.	Invited DE Ag Secretary Scuse to attend the 11/2 Lehigh event.
<p>EPA will provide more information to West Virginia Deputy Ag Commissioner about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - practice verification protocols and Chesapeake Bay Program deadlines. - the midpoint assessment and if/how the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan planning targets may change. 	Kelly Shenk Rich Batiuk	Completed.	